

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR,EGEN,EEC

SUBJECT: THORN AND SOAMES DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AT EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: IN A FEBRUARY 11 SPEECH TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER THORN DESCRIBED EC NINE PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AS A CHALLENGE TO THE EFFICIENCY OF EUROPE AND ITS INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THORN TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DECISION TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AT THE CONFERENCE PUTS AN END TO THE DEBATE OVER WHAT LIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S COMPETENCE AND WHAT CONTINUES TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBER STATES. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES ECHOED THORN'S THEME STATING THAT THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE PROVIDES FOR THE FIRST TIME A FRAMEWORK FOR OVERALL DISCUSSIONS OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT THE COMMUNITY SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY "TO LIVE UP TO OUR WORDS." END SUMMARY

2. ADDRESSING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT IN OFFICE, LUXEMBOURG  
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FOREIGN MINISTER THORN OUTLINED THE CONSEQUENCES FOR

THE NINE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AT THE CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THORN DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SOME " REARGUARD COMBAT," BUT IS CONVINCED THAT ONCE THE MEMBER STATES ARE RESOLVED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE,THEY WILL NOT FAIL TO REALIZE THAT WHATEVER IS AGREED IN THE DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION,CAN ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED BY THAT SAME COMMUNITY. OTHERWISE,HE SAID, " WE SHOULD INEVITABLY BE INVOLVED IN AN ABSURD EXERCISE." THORN STATED THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION TO SPEAK AS ONE AT THE CONFERENCE PUTS TO AN END THE LONG DEBATE OVER WHAT LIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S COMPETENCE AND WHAT CONTINUES TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER STATES.

3. REGARDING THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONSTHORN EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S GOOD INTENTIONS MAY BE GRADUALLY UNDERMINED BY " OUR OWN SLOWNESS OR

BY OUR FAILURE TO ADAPT TO NEW SITUATIONS." HE WAS CONCERNED,HE SAID,ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD BE ENCOUNTERED BY THE COMMUNITY IN CLEARLY DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN ITS DIRECT ROLE AT THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF PERMANENT CONCERTATION WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING AT THE CONFERENCE HE CONCLUDED SAYING, " DEFINITION OF THE COMMON POSITION OF THE NINE MUST NOT BE DEPENDENT ON CONCERTATION WITH OUR PARTNERSTATES -- WHETHER THOSE TAKING PART IN THE DIALOGUE OR THOSE WHICH LEGITIMATELY INTEND BEING ASSOCIATED WITH IT THROUGH THE OECD,AN ORGANIZATION WITH OBSERVER STATUS."

4. SOAMES TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THE ESSENTIAL AIM OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DESCRIBED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS THE WORLD ENTITY WHICH DEPENDS MOST ON ALL THE QUESTIONS BEING DISCUSSED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DIALOGUE. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY BY SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OWN STRENGTHENING AND SOLIDARITY. SOAMES UNCLASSIFIED

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PRAISED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS "BOLD" INITIATIVE AND ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO FORMER EC DIRECTOR GENERAL WELLENSTEIN FOR HIS ROLE IN THE DIALOGUE STATING THAT " OF ALL THE REMARKABLE MEN IN THE COMMISSION,HE IS THE MOST REMARKABLE." SOAMES CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE CONFERENCE "OFFERS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE UP TO OUR WORDS." MORRIS

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